

two arms for connecting the first coupler to a second coupler ;wherein the first or second arm has a controllable phase unit for adjusting the variable coupler ratio; and

the second coupler for combining the two portions

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5. (Original) The optical signal equalizer of claim 1 arranged to compensate for leading or lagging intersymbol interference in the logic "0" bits of the received signal.

6. (Original) The optical signal equalizer of claim 1 being used to improve the bit error rate (BER) of received signals that are impaired by intersymbol interference or distortions that lead to intersymbol interference.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The optical signal equalizer of claim ~~7~~¹ being used to improve the bit error rate (BER) of received signals that are impaired by intersymbol interference or distortions that lead to intersymbol interference.

9. (Original) The optical signal equalizer of claim ~~7~~¹ wherein one or more of the couplers are variable.

10. (Original) A method of operating an optical equalizer of an optical system for equalizing a received optical signal modulated at a preselected modulation bit rate, comprising the steps of:

5 splitting the light into two or more variable portions;

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